

Message Text

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O P 170134Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO FPA WASHDC PRIORITY
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK PRIORITY
CINCLANT NORFOLK PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 068675

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, FRG

SUBJECT: INITIAL FRG POSITION ON LTDP

REFS:A.USNATO 02664, DTG 151350Z MAR 78
B. USNATO 02740, DTG 161537 MAR 78

1. FOR NATO:WE ARE CONCERNED FRG OPENING POSITION ON LTDP
IN MARCH EWG SESSION BE TOO MINIMALIST. INITIAL FRG
POSITION ON TF RECOMMENDATIONS TABLED 15 MARCH FOR EWG
MEMBERS SHOWS RESERVATIONS ON MANY MORE THAN
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WE HAD ANTICIPATED.

2. PERHAPS THIS IS PARTLY BECAUSE OF NATURAL CAUTION
OWING TO LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE TO ANALYZE PROPOSALS
BEFORE REACTING.

3. THEREFORE, NOW THAT INITIAL FRG POSITIONS HAVE BEEN

TABLED, REQUEST THAT YOU DISCUSS THIS WITH FRG
PERMREP. WE DO NOT WISH TO MAKE SPECIFIC RECLAMAS AT
THIS POINT (THAT CAN BE DONE AT EWG), BUT RATHER TO EXPRESS
OVERALL NEED FOR FRG TO JOIN US IN MOVING REST OF ALLIES

TO SEIZE LTDP AND SUMMIT OPPORTUNITY FOR A WHOLE NEW
DIMENSION OF ALLIANCE COOPERATION IN THE INTEREST OF
THE COMMON DEFENSE.

4. IF THE SECOND STRONGEST MILITARY MEMBER OF THE
ALLIANCE TAKES TOO MINIMALIST AN ATTITUDE AT THE OUTSET,
IT WILL ALMOST SURELY LEAVE US ISOLATED AS THE ONLY
MAJOR ALLY PRESSING HARD FOR A FAR-REACHING LTDP. AS
YOU ARE AWARE FROM SECDEF'S MESSAGE TO HIS FELLOW DEFMINIS,
WE SEE THE LTDP AS QUITE AFFORDABLE AFTER SUITABLE
SCRUBBING DOWN. INDEED, WE BELIEVE THAT BULK OF MID-
TERM 1979-84 FUNDING REQUIRED IS ALREADY PROGRAMMED BY
FRG, ALTHOUGH SOME MODIFICATION IN FRG (AS IN US)
PROGRAMS MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO CONFORM TO NEW LTDP STRESS
ON COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS.

5. YOU MIGHT ADD THAT MANY OTHERS AT EWG TABLE ARE
ALREADY LIKELY TO EXPRESS MINIMALIST VIEWS, FOR EXAMPLE
UK WHICH HAS REPEATEDLY DONE SO. IF FRG AS WELL AS UK
AND OTHERS THROW COLD WATER ON ACCEPTABILITY OF TOO
MUCH OF LTDP AT OUTSET, IT COULD LEAD TO US VS EUROPEAN
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DIFFICULTIES WHICH WOULD BODE ILL FOR SUMMIT -- AND
MORE IMPORTANT FOR CREDIBLE NATO DETERRENCE/DEFENSE
IN EIGHTIES.

6. MOREOVER WE HAVE BEEN TELLING OUR CONGRESS IN BUDGET
HEARINGS THAT LTDP WOULD BE PROOF OF HOW EUROPEANS, TOO,
ARE ACTING TO STRENGTHEN NATO, NOT JUST US ALONE.

7. FOR BONN: SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY MIGHT USEFULLY MAKE
SIMILAR POINTS TO MOD AT SUITABLE LEVEL.
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NNN

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